

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 04989 071334Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----044709 071337Z /41
O 071030Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2532

S E C R E T ANKARA 4989

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FOR NIMETZ AND VEST FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, TU
SUBJ: DEFENSE COOPERATION

REF: ANKARA 4977

1. ELEKDAG UNDERSTANDS THAT ON THE EVE OF THE EMBARGO VOTE IN CONGRESS THERE IS TACTICAL ADVANTAGE IN NOT REJECTING OUT OF HAND OUR REQUEST FOR AN INTERIM ARRANGEMENT FOR POST EMBARGO US MILITARY OPERATIONS IN TURKEY. HOWEVER, HIS REACTION TO THIS PROPOSAL (REFTEL) LEFT LITTLE HOPE THAT WE CAN EXPECT THE GOT TO ALLOW THE RESUMPTION OF THOSE OPERATIONS WITHOUT A NEW DCA.

2. I TOLD ELEKDAG THAT I FEARED THAT RELATIVELY SOON AFTER THE EMBARGO WAS REPEALED, TURKEY'S FAILURE TO ALLOW A RESUMPTION OF US MILITARY OPERATIONS WOULD BECOME A SERIOUS ISSUE. I SAID THAT IF THE GOT ENVISIONED A DOCUMENT STATING GENERAL PRINCIPLES AS THE NEW "LEGAL BASIS" FOR US OPERATIONS, THIS MIGHT BE NEGOTIATED RELATIVELY QUICKLY BUT THAT THE MORE SPECIFIC AND DETAILED THE DOCUMENT, THE MORE TIME IT WOULD TAKE TO COMPLETE NEGOTIATIONS. (IN THIS CONNECTION, I MIGHT REMIND YOU THAT SINCE 1954, WE HAVE BEEN IN A
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ANKARA 04989 071334Z

RELATIVELY CONSTANT STATE OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE TURKS ON THE SPECIFICS THAT WOULD GOVERN THE DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS OF THE INSTALLATIONS. NONE OF THOSE TECHNICAL LEVEL NEGOTIATIONS WERE EVER COMPLETED IN TOTO.) I ASKED ELEKDAG IF THE GOT HAD CONSIDERED THE FORM OR CONTENT OF A NEW DCA AND HE SAID THAT THIS PROCESS HAD NOT YET BEGUN.

3. THE 1976 DCA WAS US INITIATED AND WE TABLED THE FIRST DRAFT. SIMILARLY, THE OFFER TO RENEGOTIATE THE 1976 DCA WAS A US INITIATIVE AND I EXPECT THAT THE TURKS ARE AGAIN WAITING FOR US TO TAKE THE LEAD AND TABLE THE FIRST DRAFT. I AM CONCERNED THAT UNLESS WE TAKE ACTION SOON AND MAKE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS ON THE FORM AND CONTENT OF THE NEW DCA THAT THE INSTALLATIONS MAY NOT BE IN FULL OPERATION IN SIX MONTHS.

4. I BELIEVE THAT WHAT IS NECESSARY IS FOR US TO TABLE A FIRST DRAFT. THIS MISSION HAS SENT TO THE DEPARTMENT SEVERAL FORMULATIONS FOR A NEW DCA INCLUDING A SERIES OF VERY SPECIFIC DRAFT INSTALLATION AGREEMENTS WHICH THE MILITARY COMMANDERS HERE FEEL WOULD GIVE THEM UNAMBIGUOUS COMMAND AND CONTROL OF OUR FORCES, EQUIPMENT AND MISSIONS. I BELIEVE THAT GREATER SPECIFICITY IN OUR SECURITY COOPERATION AGREEMENTS WITH THE TURKS IS GOOD BUT AM CONCERNED THAT IF WE CHOOSE TO TABLE SUCH DETAILED DOCUMENTS THAT WE RISK SETTING THE SCENE FOR PROTRACTED NEGOTIATIONS.

5. ALTHOUGH YOU AND I WILL BE SEIZED IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS WITH THE EMBARGO QUESTION, I THINK THIS IS ESSENTIAL THAT DURING MY CONSULTATIONS STATE AND DOD STAFF PREPARE A BRIEFING FOR US ON THE STATUS OF THEIR PREPARATIONS FOR DCA NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT WE THEN MAKE THE DECISIONS

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 ANKARA 04989 071334Z

NECESSARY TO TABLE A DRAFT AGREEMENT WITHIN A VERY SHORT TIME.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CAT-B, MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, COLLECTIVE SECURITY AGREEMENTS, MILITARY BASES, EMBARGOES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ANKARA04989
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: OA
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P850101-2067
Format: TEL
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780788/aaaacvuz.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 146fe779-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 78 ANKARA 4977
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2093510
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEFENSE COOPERATION
TAGS: MARR, TU, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/146fe779-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014